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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

CITED MATERIALS

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information, listed in the attached form PTO-1449.

Copies of materials listed and attached

JP 2-27660 corresponds to US 4,491,628
JP 9-73173 corresponds to US 5,968,713
JP 9-73173 corresponds to US 6,013,416
JP 10-10739 corresponds to US 5,843,624
JP 10-10739 corresponds to US 5,998,099
JP 5-232706 corresponds to US 5,580,695
JP 5-158239 corresponds to US 5,576,143
JP 5-249662 corresponds to US 5,968,712
JP 5-289340 corresponds to US 5,580,695

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Copies of materials listed but not attached were cited in an International Search Report dated _____; receipt of any International Search Report and copies of references were confirmed by the PCT International Division of the U.S. PTO in the Notice of Acceptance mailed _____.

Copies of materials listed and attached were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.

Also included are the pending U.S. applications listed below, copies of which are attached:

FEES

No fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement because:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application (other than a CPA) under § 1.53(d) or within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage under § 1.491 in an international



application;

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first action on the merits;

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by a certification below.

A check is attached: This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a first action on the merits but before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311 or an action that closes prosecution, and is accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

A check is attached: This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a notice of allowance under § 1.311 but before the payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) and a certification below.

CERTIFICATION

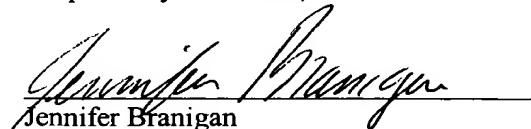
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

If appropriate, attached is a check in the amount of \$_____. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required to facilitate this filing, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account #13-3402, two copies of this paper are attached for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 30 July 2001

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